## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 11573 211135Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 ONY-00 SSO-00 /018 W

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O 211031Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3394

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 11573

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE USG/RTG AGREEMENT ON NARCOTICS DURING VICE

PRESIDENT'S VISIT

**REF: STATE 102156** 

- 1. RTG SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK, HAVE REPEATEDLY PUBLICLY AFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO COUNTERING ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFICE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EFFORT TO SECURE SHORT JOINT STATEMENT REAFFIRMING OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH RTG IN NARCOTICS FIELD AS SUGGESTED REFTEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT ADVANCE OUR INTERESTS. WHILE RTG WOULD LIKE MORE EQUIPMENT, THAI ALREADY KNOW WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF RTG NARCOTICS EFFORTS AT ROUGHLY PRESENT LEVELS.
- 2. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT FROM THAI POINT OF VIEW, INVITATION TO SIGN SUCH A SHORT STATEMENT WOULD BE SEEN AS CLEAR OPENING TO PRESS TRONGLY FOR MAJOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT ITEMS (E.,G., HELICOPTERS) FOR WHICH NEED HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN DEMONSTRATED. ANY EXPLANATION BY US THAT STATEMENT WOULD NOT LEAD TO COMMITMENT OF NEW USG RESOURCES WOULD ONLY LEAVE SOUR TASTE AND NOT BE VIEWED BY RTG AS A POSITIVE SIGN OF CONTINUED USG CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT. CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD TRY TO RAISE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON NARCOTICS WITH RTG.
WHITEHOUSE

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